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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

71-0856
file

August 11, 1971

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Abshire

FROM: Alexander Schnee

SUBJECT: Request for Secretary Rogers to Testify on
Alleged Participation of Local Government
Officials in Southeast Asian Drug Traffic

On July 9 Senator Ribicoff, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization, and Senator Muskie, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, (both Subcommittees of the Senate Committee on Government Operations) wrote the Secretary requesting that he, along with Defense Secretary Laird, CIA Director Helms, and Attorney General Mitchell, appear before the two Subcommittees in executive session at the earliest possible date to discuss the alleged participation of officials in the governments of allied nations in Southeast Asia in the heroin traffic infesting American troops in that area. On August 11 I telephoned Tyrone Brown, Staff Director of the Muskie Subcommittee, to request that he convey to the Senators assurances that the Department was carefully considering the request contained in the letter of July 9, and that the delay in replying was due to the need to coordinate with the many Government agencies involved in this matter.

Mr. Brown expressed his appreciation for the call, especially because he had drafted the July 9 letter. I went on to say that we were anxious to speak to the Senators at the first

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opportunity to inform them, among other things, of the results of our efforts to date to obtain hard information on the subject. He said he did not know whether Senator Muskie would be back before September 9 but that he would be in contact with the Senators' office and would let us know. In the meantime, he very much appreciated our offer to brief him and was very keen to discuss this matter with any representatives the Department deemed appropriate. He is leaving town and will not be back until the week of August 23. He requested that we set up a meeting with him that week.

H:ASchnee/ecz
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Copies to:
EA - Mr. Green
EA - Mr. Masters
S/NM - Mr. Gross
L - Mr. Michel
DOD - Mr. Capen
Justice - Mr. Johnson
CIA - Mr. Maury